

REMARKS

Claims 14-16, 18-31 and 33-34 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14, 18, 20, 23, 33 and 34 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claim 17 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. In particular, the allowable features of claim 17 have been incorporated into independent claims 14 and 33. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.


Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17-24 and 34.

Claims 14-16, 25-27 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,961,139 to Kita et al. (hereinafter "Kita") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,756 to Moriyama et al. (hereinafter "Moriyama") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,435 to Onodera; and claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kita in view of Moriyama and Onodera, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071138 to Ohara. The rejections have been rendered moot because the allowable subject matter of claim 17 has been incorporated into claims 14 and 33.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 11, 2008

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